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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/700,138	11/03/2003	Boris E. Makutonin	J&C / 228A	3712

7590 05/26/2004

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EXAMINER

JEFFERY, JOHN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3742

DATE MAILED: 05/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/700,138	Applicant(s) MAKUTONIN ET AL.	
	Examiner John A. Jeffery	Art Unit 3742	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,7,13,19,22,23,47,49,57,61,63-92 and 102-106 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 84-86 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,7,13,19,22,23,47,49,57,61,63-83,87-92 and 102-106 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 64, 65, 72, 73, 83, 82, 75, 70, 71, 81, 80, and 74 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 64: In line 2, "we" must be changed to "are."

Claim 65: In line 2, "re" must be changed to "are."

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 47, 57, and 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 47 depends from cancelled claim 43. For examination purposes, the examiner presumes applicant intended for claim 47 to depend from claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 49 and 103-106 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Winstead (US 2,606,987). Winstead (US 2,606,987) in Fig. 5 discloses a thermal sealing element comprising support 10 on which a thick film heating element 4a is deposited. Porcelain enamel layer 3a insulates the electric heater from the support. See also col. 6, lines 13-43 and col. 4, lines 36-59.

Regarding claims 103-106, Winstead (US 2,606,987) discloses film layers 11 in Fig. 6. Furthermore, as best seen in Fig. 5, the pressure member 10 is hollow with a rectangular cross section. One of its surfaces 2a constitutes the working face that contacts the film to be sealed. Col. 6, lines 24-26. "Supplementary heat dissipation," such as a moving stream of water, is provided within the pressure member to maintain the pressure member cool. Col. 6, lines 17-23. Thus, in view of the supplementary heat dissipation material between the working face and other surfaces of the pressure member, the working face 2a and heater mounted thereon is thermally isolated from the other surfaces of the pressure member (i.e., "other components of the sealing element" as claimed) thus fully meeting this limitation.

Double Patenting

The non-statutory double patenting rejection, whether of the obvious-type or non-obvious-type, is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent. *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ

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644 (CCPA 1969); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); *In re Van Ornam*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); and *In re Goodman*, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321 (b) and (c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a non-statutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.78 (d).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a Terminal Disclaimer. A Terminal Disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1, 4, 13, 22, 90, 7, 23, 19, 47, 57, 61, 87, 63-65, 72, 73, 83, 82, 75, 70, 71, 81, 80, 74, 66, 67, 77, 76, 68, 69, 79, 78, 88, 89, 91, 92, and 102 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-58 of U.S. Patent No. 6,657,165. Although the claims of the instant application are not identical to the claims of the '165 patent, they are not patentably distinct from each other in that the claims of the instant application are merely broader in scope than the patented claims. It is well settled that a second application containing a broader claim, more generic in its character than the specific claim in the prior patent, typically cannot support an independent valid patent. *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Moreover, there is no apparent reason why the instant claims could not have been prosecuted during pendency of application that issued as the '165 patent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 84-86 are allowable over the art of record.

Other Pertinent Prior Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant should (1) separately consider the art, and (2) consider the art in conjunction with the previously cited prior art for potential applicability under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 when responding to this action. US 439 (Fig. 2) discloses a sealing element with a heating element 24 disposed on a surface thermally isolated from other parts of the sealing element. US 803 and US 771 disclose electric heater structures with non-uniform geometry to vary heating along its length.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John A. Jeffery at telephone number (703) 306-4601 or fax (703) 305-3463. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM EST. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Jeffery", with a stylized flourish at the end.

**JOHN A. JEFFERY
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

5/25/04